

METHODS

A. DATA SOURCES

The authors held meetings with the staff of the N.C. Natural Heritage Program to begin the inventory of natural areas. They received guidelines from the staff on conducting field work and preparing site reports; the Heritage Program also provided the authors with site report forms for completion, so that all reports would be presented in the same format. The authors and Heritage Program staff, especially Alan Weakley, reviewed the Program's database on rare and endangered plants and animals, natural communities, and identified natural areas for sites to be included in the survey. Topographic maps, soil maps, and orthophoto maps were also reviewed for potential sites for survey work.

The two field biologists for the survey work, Cecil Frost and Richard Schneider, also contacted numerous local citizens, foresters, and other biologists familiar with the 10-county area. These sources suggested additional sites that would be suitable for exploration as possible significant natural areas.

B. FIELD WORK AND COMPILATION OF NATURAL AREAS

Frost and Schneider each compiled a list of sites for potential survey work during the calendar year 1989; these sites were arranged by topographic quad map. Approximately 300 sites were identified in the 10-county area. Frost surveyed Currituck, Camden, Pasquotank, Perquimans, Chowan, Gates, and Washington counties; Schneider surveyed Hertford, Bertie, and Martin counties. County-wide inventories of Gates (Frost 1982) and Washington (Lynch and Peacock 1982) counties had previously been compiled; thus, intensive survey work was not conducted in these two counties. Rather, work consisted mainly of brief surveys of already identified sites in these counties to determine if the sites were still significant natural areas. Field work began in February 1989 and continued into December 1989. Frost and Schneider completed Site Survey Report forms (designed by the N.C. Natural Heritage Program) for all sites newly identified as being significant natural areas. Obviously, not all sites checked in the field were considered to be significant; some sites identified from maps had been cut-over, some were not in a mature forest condition, and others were in a natural condition but judged not to have features of significance.

LeGrand received the survey forms from Frost and Schneider and wrote summary information about the sites for inclusion in this report (see Inventory of Sites). LeGrand also compiled information about the general features of the A/P Study area, the natural communities, and the animal and plant life. He conducted relatively little field work, that being primarily to examine the natural communities of the region and the condition of previously identified natural areas. This report was written primarily by LeGrand.